

Versus





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Versus

A Reading / Thinking
Experience
for Young Adults

Boston Public Library

MAN VS. THE UNKNOWN

FIRST ON THE MOON

Neil Armstrong

On July 20, 1969, two Americans walked on the moon, taking the first steps in mankind's greatest adventure, the conquest of space and stars.

NF

SPINDRIFT: SPRAY FROM A PSYCHIC SEA

Jan Bryant Bartell

Strange shadows and unexpected noises become a part of Jan's life after moving into an old Greenwich Village townhouse inhabited by a ghost.

NF

THE BERMUDA TRIANGLE

Charles Berlitz

A 425-foot-long freighter is just one craft that has vanished in the Triangle. Do these disappearances involve UFO's?

NF

BEYOND EARTH: MAN'S CONTACT WITH UFO's

Ralph Blum

Myth, mirage, or future of science — "an estimated 15 million Americans believe they have seen a UFO." Can they all be wrong?

NF

A DARKNESS OF GIANTS

J. Allan Bosworth

Three young men organize an expedition in the redwood forests of California to search for "Bigfoot," the fabled kin of the Abominable Snowman.

F

CHILDHOOD'S END

Arthur Clarke

For a century and a half the Overlords rule Earth, preparing mankind for its ultimate destiny in the universe.

F

IN SEARCH OF LAKE MONSTERS

Peter Costello

Long-necked seals? Giant eels? Are these possible solutions to the enigma of lake monsters, including the Loch Ness?

NF

THE ANDROMEDA STRAIN

Michael Crichton

Deadly bacteria, accidentally released from a returning space capsule, kill everyone in a small Arizona town except a senile old man and a baby.

F

THERE ARE GIANTS IN THE EARTH

Michael Gromley

Jawbones, oversized molars, and huge footprints suggest that anthropoid giants once ranged throughout the world. Are they still among us?

NF

COLOSSUS

D. F. Jones

Two mammoth, all-knowing computers, Colossus in the United States and Guardian in Russia, join in a conspiracy of machines over men. Followed by the **THE FALL OF COLOSSUS.**

F

FIRE AND ICE

Ray Kytle

While marauding, killing, looting bands roam the countryside in search of food, David Powers and his family try to survive in an isolated mountain cabin after the United States oil supply dries up.

F

BID TIME RETURN

Richard Matheson

Richard Collier falls in love with a woman who has been dead for decades and, through his own force of mind, transports himself back to 1896 in order to be with her.

F

COLONY: EARTH

Richard E. Mooney

Was the earth colonized by astronauts who came from outer space and *stayed*?

NF

THE MOTE IN GOD'S EYE

Larry Niven & Jerry Pournelle

When emissaries from another world are accidentally killed, man must set out to find the other world before peace is destroyed.

F

THE BLADERUNNER

Alan Nourse

When private medical practice is outlawed by Health Control, black market medicine leads to a deadly epidemic.

F

MAN VS. HIMSELF

GO ASK ALICE

Anonymous

"Today I woke up feeling rational and sound. I guess the bummer is over." A thirteen-year-old middle class runaway survives one of many overdoses and tells it all—or almost all—in her diary.

F

A HERO AIN'T NOTHIN' BUT A SANDWICH Alice Childress

Thirteen, black, and a junkie, Benjie is convinced that no one cares whether he lives or dies. F

MIXED-MARRIAGE DAUGHTER Hila Colman

Sophie Barnes bitterly resents her "Jewish half" until harsh anti-Semitism forces her to re-examine her very identity. F

FIRST PERSON SINGULAR Vida Demas

"It was awful to be alone. I wanted to have friends and to be like they were. I didn't want to be me if it meant being alone. But as much as I tried to be like them, it didn't work." F

THE ORDEAL OF RUNNING STANDING Thomas Fall

Running Standing and Crosses-the-River are caught between two worlds. When they finally take a stand will death be the only answer? F

I NEVER PROMISED YOU A ROSE GARDEN Hannah Green

Living in fantasy, rejecting reality, Deborah exists—but for how long and at what price? F

STEPPENWOLF Hermann Hesse

"... he was unsociable to a degree I had never before experienced in anyone. He really was a wolf of the steppes, as he called himself, a strange, wild, shy—very shy—being from another world than mine." F

LISA, BRIGHT AND DARK John Neufeld

When Betsy, M.N., and Elizabeth find their friend Lisa becoming more and more odd, they decide to provide her with their own brand of psychiatric treatment. F

THE BELL JAR Sylvia Plath

A month in exciting New York as the junior editor of a national magazine plunges a sensitive poet into deep despair and a death wish. F

A WILD THING Jean Renvoize

In the isolated wilderness of the Scottish mountains, living in caves, foraging for food, Morag senses that no one can survive all alone. F

SUDINA

Jessie Rosenberg

Her uncle's sudden death and her mother's lingering illness convince Sudina that she possesses an evil force, a force capable of causing death. F

ROSARIA

Susan Thaler

Something beautiful inside Rosaria dies when she decides that you can't get anyplace being Puerto Rican. F

MAN VS. MAN**A SPORTING PROPOSITION**

James Aldridge

Scotty and his pony Taff "divided the town that summer into those for and against him . . . into attitudes of justice and injustice. And considering that Scotty was then thirteen years of age it was no mean feat." F

REBELLION AT CHRISTIANA

Margaret Hope Bacon

In 1851 the daring rescue of four slaves and the death of a slave owner led to fear of insurrection and a trial for treason. NF

FAHRENHEIT 451

Ray Bradbury

In the grim, regimented time-to-come, Montag the fireman doesn't put out fires. He starts them: book-burning fires. F

BURY MY HEART AT WOUNDED KNEE

Dee Brown

"The whites told only one side. Told it to please themselves. Told much that is not true. Only his own best deeds, only the worst deeds of the Indians, has the white man told." NF

MY BROTHER SAM IS DEAD

James L. Collier

Patriot or Tory? Watching his neighbors and family choose sides in the conflict against Britain, Tim is haunted by his father's words: "in war the dead pay the debts of the living." F

THE AMERICAN STRUGGLE

F. P. Cook

From the Molly Maguires to Tony Boyle, the history of the American labor movement is one of "a continuing struggle between the haves and the have-notes, with violence used by both sides." NF

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

Olivia E. Coolidge

For seventy years determined women agitated, lectured, paraded, and were jailed before they were finally given the right to vote.

NF

THE CHOCOLATE WAR

Robert Cormier

When Jerry decides that he doesn't want the Vigils, a secret school society, running his life, he faces a terrifying showdown.

F

FLY AWAY, PAUL

Peter Davies

For three years Paul has been in a boys' home in Montreal, trying to survive cruelty and trying to escape.

F

HOG BUTCHER

Ronald Fair

"Look at him, ten years old and already he's been exposed to more of this rotten world than most white kids are at twenty; already he knows all the evils and supreme corruption and decadence of a dying way of life."

F

A SINGLE STANDARD

Janet Harris

For years anti-female philosophies have been expressed in oppressive policies and laws barring women from voting, owning property, and holding fulfilling jobs.

NF

STREET GANGS; YESTERDAY AND TODAY

James Haskins

"The gang was a family to all street cats. The gang fed him, gave him initiative, responsibility, and respect, which the system didn't give him because he was born poor. Born poor, you dig?"

NF

THE SOUL CATCHER

Frank Herbert

Seeking revenge for his sister's death, a young American Indian kidnaps the thirteen-year-old son of a State Department official.

F

THE OUTSIDERS

S. E. Hinton

What chance do you have to be yourself and to find a place in the world when you're a greaser from the wrong part of town?

F

TO BE A SLAVE

Julius Lester

"To be a slave was to be a human being under conditions in which that humanity was denied. They were not slaves. They were people. Their condition was slavery."

NF

VIOLENCE IN AMERICA

Robert A. Liston

"There has been so much violence in America of such a bewildering variety that it is difficult to know when to begin to describe it."

NF

LITTLE VICTORIES, BIG DEFEATS; WAR AS THE ULTIMATE POLLUTION

Georges McHargue

Thirteen writers including Hesse and Vonnegut, deal with the tragic and unjustifiable condition known as war.

F

INDIANS' SUMMER

Nasnaga

During the July 4, 1976 Bicentennial celebration the Indian Revolution begins. They capture more and more of their lost land until the only solution in the eyes of the military is overkill.

F

Z FOR ZACHARIAH

Robert C. O'Brien

Is she the last living person on earth? Anne Burden is not sure. Then a strange man in a safesuit appears, and she finds herself fighting for her life.

F

CHILD OF FIRE

Scott O'Dell

Manuel and Ernie, leaders of rival gangs, alternate between friendly competition at cockfights and bitter struggles in the streets.

F

THE CROWS OF WAR

Steven Rayson

Possessing psychic powers, Airmid, a Celtic chieftain's daughter, is nevertheless powerless to save her people from defeat at the hands of the Romans.

F

LIONS IN THE WAY

Bella Rodman

That first week of school was like no other for Robby and seven other black students, for they had enrolled in the formerly segregated high school in Jameson, Tennessee.

F

MARY DOVE

Jane Gilmore Rushing

Mary Dove and Red only wanted to be free to love one another, but the law and townspeople didn't see it that way.

F

RUN, SHELLEY, RUN!

Gertrude Samuels

Children's shelters, detention centers, foster homes—Shelley had been running from them since she was ten. Yet, at 16 she found herself in state-training school behind barred windows.

F

ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE GATE

Yuri Suhl

In a desperate attempt to save their son from the Nazi holocaust, a young Jewish couple tries to smuggle their newborn baby out of the Warsaw ghetto and place him with a sympathetic Polish family.

F

BLESS THE BEASTS AND CHILDREN

Glendon Swarthout

Six misfits escape the confines of an Arizona boys' camp to save a herd of buffalo and to find their own brand of self-respect.

F

HIS ENEMY, HIS FRIEND

John R. Tunis

They had first known each other during the dark days of the German occupation. Now Frances's superstar and Germany's great goalkeeper were pitted against each other in the crucial World Cup soccer game.

F

THE PARTISAN

Simon Watson

How did a summer of adventure and fun for Will and his friends become a brutal struggle for power in the neglected gardens of Lammercot?

F

THE MASSACRE AT FALL CREEK

Jessamyn West

Nine Indians are dead—murdered in cold blood by five white men. To prevent war from breaking out, these men are to be brought to trial and, if found guilty, hanged.

F

WALLS

Hiltgunt Zassenhaus

When Hitler came to power, Hiltgunt was only seventeen-years-old. For the next twelve years she struggled against the Third Reich, using her knowledge of languages to help resisters in German prisons.

NF

MAN VS. NATURE

JAWS

Peter Benchley

Can police chief Martin Browdy convince the town fathers to close the beaches after the murderous attack of a great white shark on a young woman?

F

THE PLAGUE

Albert Camus

Imprisoned in a plague-infested city, each of five men must make fundamental choices about how to meet catastrophe. F

WILDFIRE

Mavis T. Clark

An Australian bush fire rages out of control and five young people are trapped. Unless they put aside their differences and struggle together, they'll never make it out alive. F

FEVER!

John G. Fuller

From an isolated mission hospital in Nigeria, where two nurses die of a new killer virus, to maximum security facilities in the U.S., medical science tries to prevent a deadly epidemic. NF

THE SWARM

Arthur Herzog

At first the isolated bee attacks received little notice. Then terror began to spread as a huge swarm of giant, aggressive South American bees moved toward New York. F

STRANGE COMPANION

Dayton O. Hyde

After a plane crash in the Northwest wilderness, David's only companion is a baby whooping crane. F

COLD RIVER

William Judson

Her father had wanted a boy, but Lizzy proved to be the equal of anyone—male or female—in her battle for survival in the wilderness. F

YOU ARE THE RAIN

R. R. Knudson

Caught in a hurricane in the Florida Everglades, Crash and June take refuge in an abandoned cistern surrounded by alligators and snakes. F

MAN IN THE ENVIRONMENT

Ruth Moore

What is man's relationship to his natural environment? Is he nature's child, foe, or master? NF

ALIVE: THE STORY OF THE ANDES SURVIVORS

Piers Paul Read

After a crash in the Andes Mountains, 16 young survivors must choose between cannibalism or death by starvation. NF

CLIMBING BLIND

Colette Richard

A courageous young Frenchwoman, undaunted by her blindness, climbs, crawls, and makes her way through rock and debris in the Alps and the Pyrenees.

NF

THE MOUNTAIN OF MY FEAR

David Roberts

"We had spent forty days alone there, only to come back one man less." The place: Alaska's towering Mt. Huntington; the speaker: a 22-year-old mountaineer who writes about beauty and adventure—and tragedy.

NF

SURVIVE THE SAVAGE SEA

Dougal Robertson

After killer whales sink their boat, six people battle for their lives against sharks, storms, and hunger in a tiny dinghy for 38 days.

NF

FERAL

Berton Roueche

Suddenly there were cats everywhere—wild, dangerous, and ready to attack anything for food.

F

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